

HIGHLAND DANCING.



THE REEL OF FOUR



THE REEL OF TULLOCH.



THE GHILLIE CALLUM

None of the original forbidding dancing and games instituted by JOHN KNOX and his followers could succeed effectually in stamping out the love of dancing which is inherent in the Scottish character. At the present day it is a most popular pastime in the North, though condemned by the "unco guid" as frivolous and sinful.

There are certain dances peculiar to every county. Others—particularly those of Highland origin—find favour everywhere, from the Tweed to John O'Groat's.

The *Reel* is not only the most graceful, but at the same time the most spirited of all Scottish dances. Though belonging more particularly to the Highlands, it is common throughout all Scotland, and even by the humblest classes of the community, is performed with an elegance and grace indicative of the "poetry of motion."

"*Foursome*" and "*Eightsome*" reels are the most usual, though the latter is practically unknown in many parts of Scotland. The former is executed by two couples who, at the outset, face each other—or the gentlemen may stand back to back facing their partners. A figure of eight is described: the gentlemen pass the ladies on their right, and their contréres on the left, and on the completion of the figure have changed places, though the ladies return to their original positions. All then dance one of the *Strathspey* steps (or those belonging to the *Highland Fling*, the time of which is similar), and again perform the figure of eight, each gentleman facing the respective ladies alternately.

This may be continued for any length of time. The time and tune are then suddenly changed when the dancers are performing the "figure of eight," and all the movements, including the steps, become quicker.

The *Reel of Tulloch* (or *Halla-hau*, as it is sometimes called) commences with the figure of eight. After dancing one of the *Reel* steps, the gentlemen swing their vis-à-vis first by the right and then by the left arm, leaving them to face each other and dance in the centre. The fair sex swing in the same manner, face the gentlemen, dance and then swing again, bringing their partners into the centre, and so on *ad lib.* This is often combined with an all-round movement.

To dance the *Reel* with *shai* demands not only the use of the feet, but also of the hands, and above all the vocal organs.

That magic "*Hooch!*" (pointing to the martial origin of the Scottish national dance) is quite beyond the Southerners' powers of imitation, but produces an effervescence of mirth and glee which makes the *Reel* the most enjoyable of dances. Our first photograph depicts four kilted warriors dancing the *Reel of Four* in real Highland style, no doubt to such well-known tunes as "*The Marquis of Hanley's Own*" and "*Money-mit-k*." The second represents the *Reel of Tulloch*, during the swinging process.

The *Ghillie Callum*, or *Sword Dance*, is usually danced by one person, as in the third photograph, and calls for even more skill than is necessary in dancing the *Reel*.

It is supposed that this dance was originally performed before any battle and after a victory by the military leaders of the clans.